

RESEARCH INTO 10TH –11TH CENTURY CEMETERIES AND GRAVE GOODS IN SOMOGY COUNTY FROM THE BEGINNINGS TO THE PRESENT DAY

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Grave goods, cemeteries and other archaeological sites that can be dated to the 10th and 11th centuries have been known of in Somogy County since the end of the 19th century, and several of these are quite significant in Carpathian Basin research on this period. Despite this, up to the present day no real work has been produced that strives for comprehensiveness in bringing together the sites in the county from this period in detail and draws substantial, forward-looking conclusions that can be made from the full range of current knowledge. The work being prepared by László Költő and Máté Varga will attempt to remedy this deficiency, and the authors have compiled the present article as a summary of the research history to serve as a kind of introduction to the aforementioned volume.

GEOGRAPHICAL OVERVIEW

Even prior to the conquering Hungarians appearance in Pannonia there were important transportation routes and trade centers within the territory of the present-day county. Therefore, it played a significant role within the Carpathian Basin, primarily starting from the Late Copper Age and Early Bronze Age, and later in the Roman Period as well. The area of the county shows a varied profile from the perspective of physical geography: it is bounded to the north by Lake Balaton (more precisely in the context of physical geography by the Balaton Basin); to the east by the Mezőföld, Külső-Somogy and Zselic regions, although these latter are shared with its neighboring counties to the east; to the south the Drava River has represented a natural border for millennia; and to the west the Zala Hills, the Belső-Somogy region and the Kis-Balaton Basin enclose this administrative unit. Alluvial fan plains with sand dunes, flood plains and independent hilly areas alternate with one another in its territory. For the most part these are not amongst the areas that are best suited for agriculture due to their pedological characteristics (particularly the brown woodland soils washed with clay and the boggy meadow and fen soils), and in accordance with this in Somogy one encounters a natural vegetation of woodlands and reeds. This diverse configuration makes the comprehensive interpretation of Somogy County's archaeological finds (including those from the 10th–11th centuries) a quite complex and differentiated task.

THE BEGINNINGS OF ORGANIZED RESEARCH IN SOMOGY COUNTY

Similar to the rest of the country, archaeological research in Somogy County began in the 19th century. Enthusiastic teachers, parish clerks and intellectuals were the first collectors of finds here. Flóris Rómer himself even came on collection trips here,³ and in part this brought about the need to establish a museum-type association in an institutional form. This was first realized in 1879 with the formation of the *Somogy County Archaeological and Historical Society*, which adopted the goal of recording and publishing the county's cultural – including archaeological – assets. This endeavor was not long-lived, after the publication of one annual the society completed the majority of its significant work. However, its importance cannot be debated in that this was the first publication that informed people about the county's archaeological relics that had been collected up to that point. 1879 is also an important date, because the first finds known to us that represent the period under discussion were found at this time from a grave discovered during the

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³ Facsimile publication of the notes made by Rómer during his collection trip: Valter, Ilona – Velladics, Márta (eds.): *Rómer Flóris jegyzőkönyvei. Somogy, Veszprém és Zala megye, 1861* (Flóris Rómer's Notebooks. Somogy, Veszprém and Zala Counties, 1861) (Budapest: Országos Műemlékvédelmi Hivatal, 1999).

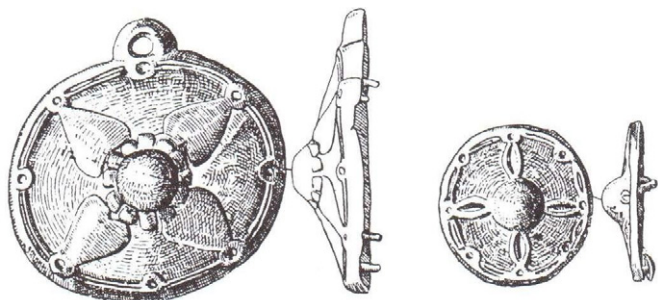


Fig. 1: Harness decorations from the Zselickislak Grave
(from: Hampel 1907, 37)

in *Sérsekszöllős*,⁶ then in 1912 the remains of a female equestrian grave came to light in *Zselickislak* (Fig. 1). An important figure in the history of the museum from the 1920s was the ethnographer Ferenc Gönczi, who from 1922 to 1948 was the director of the organization that now operates under the name *Somogy County Museum Association*. Gönczi was the first to propose the necessity of taking an inventory, and his name is connected with the initiation of the first excavations in the county. At this time, in 1922, another cache of coins came to light, including a Byzantine gold *solidus* along with 104 St. László period denarius coins. St. László coins (185 coins) were also found in *Somogyvár*.⁷ Two gold circles with S-shaped ends are known from *Zselicsszentpál*, but these were lost during the course of the Second World War⁸

In 1944 János Nemeskéri made a test excavation at *Karád-Akasztófa-domb*, where a portion of a linear cemetery from the Árpád Period was found⁹ while in the 1950s a Conquest Period arrowhead was discovered at the *Böhönye-Lőtér* site. In 1950 the poet Gyula Takáts – the museum director at that time – noted the remains of a Conquest Period cemetery at *Tab-Ugaj-puszta*.¹⁰ In the 1950s the first archaeologist began working at the museum in the person of Rezső Pusztai, who published reports in the pages of the *Archaeologiai Értesítő* (*Archaeological Bulletin*) on 11th century sites, for example *Ráksi-Felső-hegy-dűlő*.

THE FIRST LARGE CEMETERY: FIAD-KÉRPUSZTA

Between 1949 and 1951 the cemetery of *Fiad-Kérpuszt*¹¹ containing 388 graves was excavated, which at that time was considered unmatched for its full excavation and cataloguing. The period of use of the

⁴ Fehér Géza – Éry Kinga – Kralovánszky Alán: *Régészeti Tanulmányok. Leletkataszter* (Archaeological Essays Inventory of Finds) (Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1962), 76.

⁵ Hampel, József: *Újabb tanulmányok a honfoglalási kor emlékeiről* (Recent Essays on the Relics of the Conquest Period) (Budapest, 1907), 118–119, 151. Börzsönyi, Arnold: *Balatonkiliti Szt. László-érméi* (St. László Coins from Balatonkiliti). *Numizmatikai Közöny* II (1903), 90–91.

⁶ Fehér, Géza – Éry, Kinga – Kralovánszky, Alán: *Régészeti Tanulmányok. Leletkataszter* (Archaeological Essays Inventory of Finds) (Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1962), 66.

⁷ Kovács, László: *Megjegyzések Saltzer Ernő kincskataszterének korai, 1000–1141 közötti keltezésű leletekre vonatkozó címszavaihoz* (Notes on the Entries Related to Finds from 1000–1141 in Ernő Saltzer's Treasury Inventory). *Numizmatikai Közöny* CIV–CV (2005–2006), 42, 48.

⁸ Bakay, Kornél: *Kaposvár földjének őstörténete a legrégibb időktől a honfoglalásig* (Ancient History of the Lands of Kaposvár from the Earliest Times to the Hungarian Conquest). In: Kanyar, József (ed.): *Kaposvár: Várostörténeti tanulmányok* (Essays on the Urban History of Kaposvár) (Kaposvár, 1975), 56, 62.

⁹ Fehér, Géza – Éry, Kinga – Kralovánszky, Alán: *Régészeti Tanulmányok. Leletkataszter* (Archaeological Essays Inventory of Finds) (Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1962), 45.

¹⁰ Magyar, Kálmán: *Tab régészeti emlékei* (Archaeological Relics of Tab). In: Bertalan, Béla (ed.): *Tabi kilátó 2004–2005* (Tab Lookout 2004–2005). Local history reader (Tab, 2005), 66.

¹¹ Nemeskéri, János – Lipták, Pál – Szőke, Béla: *Le cimetière du XI^e siècle de Kérpuszt*. *Acta Archaeologica Hungaricae* III (1953), 205–370. Nemeskéri, János – Acsádi, György: *Történelmi-demográfiai vizsgálatok a kérpusztai XI. századi temető anyagából* (Historical-Demographic Examinations from the Materials of the 11th Century Cemetery in Kérpuszt). *Archaeologiai Értesítő* 79 (1952), 134–147.



Fig. 2: Bracelet with animal heads and woven ring from Somogyjád (photograph: Máté Varga)

cemetery was dated to the 11th century by coins of St. István and St. László. In general the graves had rather scanty grave goods. The most common types of finds in the graves of the women were circles, beads, bracelets and rings, while for the men it was coins, arrowheads and iron fasteners. At the time of the excavation these finds, along with similar finds from other cemeteries, were considered to be ethnically Slavic. On one hand the Hampel-type A-B division dominated the scientific thinking, while on the other hand the political situation of that time also supported this assumption.¹² However, a few years later Béla Szőke, when he compiled the inventory of Conquest Period and Árpád Period sites and finds discovered to that point, recognized the materials of the common Hungarian people in this legacy attributed to the so-called “Bjelo Brdo” culture. The analysis of the Somogy County site also aided him to a great extent in realizing this.

This same cemetery did not only play a role in resolving the aforementioned problem, but also comprised the basis for posing a different kind of question. From the beginnings of research into the Conquest Period it could be observed that the Trans-Danubian region lacked the types of objects and burial customs that would have verified the presence of the affluent social class in the area. By this we understand burials with weaponry and horses, as well as satchel cover plates and hair disks. These same items appear in much greater proportions in the other parts of the country (primarily in the Upper Tisza region or the area between the Danube and Tisza rivers). At the same time cemeteries designated as for “commoners” appear in an inverse proportion in the two regions; cemeteries with a surprisingly large number of graves but only scanty finds are rare on the Great Hungarian Plain, while there are many to be found in Trans-Danubia (Majs, Fiad-Kérpusztá, Halimba). Researchers into the Hungarian Middle Ages met at the beginning of the 1970s in Nagyvázsöny¹³ for a conference lasting a few days, where Attila Kiss pointed out this deficiency of the Trans-Danubian materials on the basis of the observations made at the cemetery in Majs. However, this does not mean that we know of only cemeteries that can be characterized as having a large number of graves and scanty finds from the 10th-11th centuries in the territory of Somogy County. In the last 20-30 years cemeteries or individual graves have come to light from preventive excavations prior to large projects or other types of



Fig. 3: Grave number 4 from Tengőd-Hékútpuszta with its excavated equestrian burial (source: Rippl-Rónai Museum Archaeological Database I/41/9.)

¹² Langó, Péter: *Amit elrejt a föld... A 10. századi magyarság anyagi kultúrájának régészeti kutatása a Kárpát-medencében* (What Is Hidden in the Earth... The Archaeological Research into the Material Culture of the 10th Century Hungarian People in the Carpathian Basin) (Budapest: L'Harmattan, 2007), 125, 127.

¹³ Éri, István (ed.): *A magyar középkor kutatóinak nagyvázsönyi találkozásán elhangzott előadások, hozzászólások*. 1971. május 6–8. (Presentations and Comments Heard at the Meeting of Researchers into the Hungarian Middle Ages in Nagyvázsöny. 6–8 May 1971) (Veszprém, 1973). Mesterházy, Károly: *Nemzetségi szervezetek és osztályviszonyok kialakulása a honfoglaló magyarságnál* (Development of Clan Organizations and Class Relationships in the Conquering Hungarians) (Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1980), 37.

rescue excavations that have modified the basis of our knowledge of the archaeology of the county as outlined above.

MORE INTENSIVE RESEARCH THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY

In 1964 Éva Kocztur completed her dissertation that included the county's archaeological inventory, which mentions relatively few sites that can be listed from this period, although there is a cemetery that she is the first to describe (*Felsőmocsolád-Sándor-puszta*).¹⁴ From the 1960s–1980s István Dienes (*Tengőd-Hékút-puszta* 1960), István Erdélyi (*Somogyaszaló-Kossuth L. u.* 1966), Balázs Draveczky (*Kaposvár-Petőfi S. u.* 1964), Edith Bárdos (*Kötcse-Szóládi út* 1979, *Somogyjád-Gépállomás* 1989 (Fig. 2), *Zamárdi-Réti földek* 1989, *Balatonboglár-Berekre-dűlő* 1989), Szilvia Honti (*Kötcse-Szóládi út* 1979, *Balatonboglár-Kilátó utca/Várdomb* 1981, *Törökkoppány-Temető u.* 1982) and Kálmán Magyar (*Balatonlelle-Irmapuszta* 1970, *Törökkoppány-Temető u.* 1972) performed rescue excavations without which today we would have a much poorer knowledge about the topic.¹⁵ Of the aforementioned sites the excavation at Tengőd should be highlighted, as it was the first place in the county where equestrian burials were documented (Fig. 3). In 1966 two graves were found at the *Kaposvár-Stromfeld Aurél utca* site that contained circles with S-shaped ends, bracelets with animal heads and bronze rings.

From 1973 an archaeologist was placed in the position of the museum director. This was Kornél Bakay, whose work is unavoidable due to the Saint Giles monastery in Somogyvár, as well as several dozen rescue and other excavations (*Balatonlelle-Irmapuszta* 1972, *Törökkoppány-Temető u.* 1973 (Fig. 4), *Ráksi-Felső-hegy-dűlő* 1975). Often the collection activities of private individuals enriched our knowledge, for example József Ósz provided Conquest Period metal fittings from *Kötcse-Pócza-puszta* in the 1970s.

The *Vörs-Papkert "B"* cemetery was a defining point in the history of archaeology in the county. This site that was researched between 1984 and 1994 was used as a cemetery from the 9th century to the middle of the 11th century; in addition to Late Avar Period burials, Conquest Period and Early Árpád Period graves have also been excavated. The richer Hungarian graves often were found in the environs of aristocratic Late Avar burials,



Fig. 4: Clothing decorations from Törökkoppány (from: Bakay, Kornél: *A Somogy megyei múzeumi szervezet tevékenysége 1974. január 1-től 1975. december 31-ig* [Activities of the Somogy County Museum Organization from 01 January 1974 to 31 December 1975]. *Somogyi Múzeumok Közleményei* 2 (1975), 307. Fig. 77)



Fig. 5: Bronze belt loop from grave 167 at Vörs-Papkert "B" (from: Költő, László – M. Aradi, Csilla: *Fejezetek a magyar középkori élet tárházából* [Chapters from the Treasury of Hungarian Medieval Life]. Exhibition guide. Kaposvár, 2001, 3)

¹⁴ Kocztur, Éva: *Somogy megye régészeti leletkatasztere* (Somogy County Archaeological Inventory of Finds. Régészeti Füzetek (Archaeological Booklets) Ser II. 13. (Budapest: Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum, 1964), 38.

¹⁵ However, detailed publications were not made about the majority of these sites and finds, so we only know about them in the form of brief reports and data storage items. Due to this their scientific processing and publication is important as soon as possible.

and on the basis of this the excavating archaeologists László Költő and József Szentpéteri for a long time considered the evidence from this site to be conclusive on the issue of Avar-Hungarian assimilation, although today the experts are more restrained on this question.¹⁶ Here they found a man interred with a double-edged sword in grave 167 (Fig. 5), and in grave 561 another male grave with a quiver, a symbolic equestrian burial and a strange belt buckle. There are examples of rich finds from the female graves as well: gilded silver blouse neck decorations, a pair of pendant earrings with rows of cast beads, metal buttons, rosettes and silver band bracelets.¹⁷

In 1988 László Költő excavated two equestrian burials. One was found in *Balatonszemes* (Fig. 6) on Landler Jenő Street,¹⁸ and the other in *Fonyód* (Fig. 7), in the courtyard of the Magyar Bálint Elementary School.¹⁹ Both corpses wore gilt silver belt fittings when alive, and while the Fonyód grave contained a rolled-up horse skin, the Balatonszemes grave was a symbolic equestrian burial.

The rescue excavations continued in the 1990s thanks to Péter Németh (*Balatonlelle-Arany J. u.* 1991) and Kálmán Magyar (*Fonyód-Sándor u.* 2000–2001, *Fonyód-Homokbánya* 1996, 1998). Of these, the Balatonlelle grave should be highlighted, where a partial equestrian burial was placed next to the deceased and the grave goods included arrowheads, iron buckles, a bridle bit and a pair of inlaid stirrups.²⁰ The research into the *Főnyed-Gólyásfa* site continued from 1988–1995, where 427 graves were excavated. There may have once been a wooden church on the 6x10 meter empty space in the middle of the cemetery, and the graves found on the northern side of this may have been older than the building (10th century?).²¹

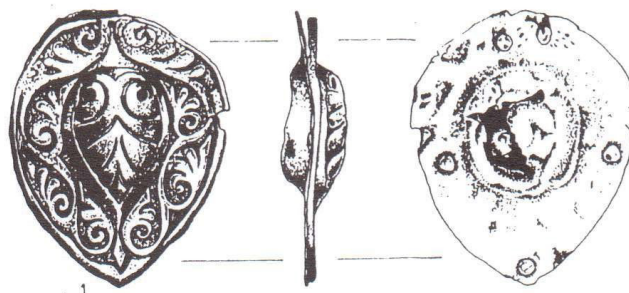


Fig. 6: Breast-strap fitting from the equestrian grave at Balatonszemes (from: Költő 1990, 93. Fig. 1)



Fig. 7: Reconstruction of the Fonyód belt (photograph: Krisztián Balla)

¹⁶ Költő, László – Szentpéteri, József: Adatok az avar asszimiláció kérdésköréhez: Egy kora középkori népesség régészeti feltárása Vörsön (Data on the Topic of Avar Assimilation: The Archaeological Excavation of an Early Medieval Population in Vörs). *Forrás* (October 1990), 77. Szentpéteri, József: Kritikai megjegyzések az avar-magyar asszimiláció kérdésköréhez (Critical Notes on the Topic of Avar-Hungarian Assimilation). In: Sudár, Balázs et al. (ed.): *Magyar őstörténet: tudomány és hagyományörzés* (Hungarian Prehistory: Science and the Preservation of Tradition) (Budapest: Hungarian Academy of Sciences Research Center for the Humanities, 2014), 43–53.

¹⁷ Költő, László – Szentpéteri, József: Vörs-Papkert B. In: Költő, László – Vándor, László (eds.): *Évezredek üzenete a láp világából* (Régészeti kutatások a Kis-Balaton területén 1979–1992) (Message of the Millennia from the World of Marshes [Archaeological Research in the Kis-Balaton Area 1979–1992]) (Kaposvár-Zalaegerszeg, 1996), 118.

¹⁸ Költő, László: A Balatonszemes, Landler Jenő utcai honfoglaláskori lovas sír (The Conquest Period Equestrian Grave at Landler Jenő Street in Balatonszemes). In: Reöthy Ferenc (ed.): *Szemes. Tanulmányok Balatonszemes múltjáról és jelenéről* (Szemes. Essays on the Past and Present of Balatonszemes) (Balatonszemes, 1990), 85–101.

¹⁹ Költő, László: Az első honfoglalók a Balaton déli partján (The First Conquering Hungarians on the Southern Shore of Lake Balaton). In: Wolf, Mária – Révész, László (eds.): *A magyar honfoglalás korának régészeti emlékei* (Archaeological Relics from the Hungarian Conquest Period) (Miskolc, 1996), 187–197.

²⁰ Varga, Máté: *Honfoglalás kori lovas sírja Balatonlellén* (Conquest Period Equestrian Grave in Balatonlelle). Manuscript, 2015.

²¹ M. Aradi, Csilla: A főnyed-gólyásfai Árpád-kori temető és település eddigi ásatásának összegzése (Summary of the Excavations to This Point at the Főnyed-Gólyásfa Árpád Period Cemetery and Settlement). *Somogyi Múzeumok Közleményei* 13 (1998), 113–154.



Fig. 8: Pair of hair disks from grave 208 at Vörs-Majori-dűlő
(from: Hegyi 2015, photo: Borbála Hegyi)



Fig. 9: Bone-handled iron knife from grave 417 at Vörs-Majori-dűlő
(from: Hegyi 2015, photo: Borbála Hegyi)



Fig. 10: Cast bronze lunula from grave 396
at Vörs-Majori-dűlő
(from: Hegyi 2015, photo: Borbála Hegyi)

ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM: NEW RESULTS AND NEW GOALS

In the excavations prior to large projects in the 2000s several 10th-11th century former village cemeteries of major size came to light, including the *Kaposvár-61-es elkerülő út 2* site, as well as the *Kaposvár-Kertészlet* site. The former cemetery with its 204 graves²² can be considered fully excavated, while at the *Kaposvár-Kertészlet* cemetery 315 graves have been excavated so far.²³ László Költő's excavation of the *Zamárdi-Endrédi úti betonkeverő üzem* site in 2006, or Péter Skriba's excavation of the *Somogyaszaló (Mernye)-Nagy-árok* site in 2008 can also be listed here.²⁴ László Költő's excavation between 1999 and 2002 at *Vörs-Majori-dűlő* is a bit out of the ordinary, since it is not a preventive excavation before a large project, but in the category of a rescue excavation. The unusual feature of this cemetery that can be dated from the middle of the 10th century to the first third of the 11th century is its full excavation as well as its graves with weaponry and the bronze filigree hair disks from grave 208 (Fig. 8), since we know of simi-

²² Bárdos, Edith – Varga, Máté: Jelentés a Kaposvárt elkerülő 61-es számú főút 2. lelőhelyén végzett feltárásról (Report on the Excavations at the Kaposvár-61-es elkerülő út 2 Site). *A Kaposvári Rippl-Rónai Múzeum Közleményei* 3 (2014), 175–184. The processing of the anthropological material: Németh et al.: Kaposvár 61-es út 2. lelőhely Árpád-kori embertani anyagának paleodemográfiai és paleopatológiai vizsgálata (Paleodemographic and Paleopathological Examination of the Árpád Period Anthropological Materials at the Kaposvár 61-es út 2 Site). *Anthropológiai Közlemények* 56 (2015). Forthcoming.

²³ Költő, László – Bajzik, Annamária: Kora Árpád-kori temetőrészlet egy kaposvári lakóparkban. Előzetes jelentés az Ezüsthárs lakópark közműberuházások által érintett területének régészeti feltárájáról (Early Árpád Period Cemetery Section in a Kaposvár Gated Community. Preliminary Report on the Archaeological Excavations on the Area Affected by the Installation of Public Utilities at the Ezüsthárs Gated Community). *Somogyi Múzeumok Közleményei* 18 (2008), 171–224. Költő, László: Kaposvár-Kertészlet, Ezüsthárs lakópark (Kaposvár-Kertészlet, Ezüsthárs Gated Community). In: Honti et al.: Régészeti feltárások Somogy megyében 2007–2011 között (Archaeological Excavations in Somogy County between 2007 and 2011). *A Kaposvári Rippl-Rónai Múzeum Közleményei* 1 (2013), 107–136.

²⁴ Skriba, Péter: Egy Árpád-kori köznépi temető sírjai (Graves of an Árpád Period Commoners' Cemetery). In: Skriba, Péter et al.: Késő rézkori település, középső bronzkori hamvasztásos sír és Árpád-kori temetőrészlet Mernye határában (Late Copper Age Settlement, Middle Bronze Age Cremation Grave and Section of an Árpád Period Cemetery on the Border of Mernye). In: Kvassay Judit (ed.): *Évkönyv és jelentés a Kulturális Örökségvédelmi Szakszolgálat 2008. évi feltárássairól* (Annual and Report on the Excavations in the Year 2008 by the Cultural Heritage Preservation Professional Service) (Budapest, 2010), 249–342.



Fig. 11: Hair disks from grave 15 at Balatonújlak-Erdő-dűlő (from: Langó–Siklósi 2013, 143. Fig. 8)



Fig. 13: Silver saddle decoration from grave 10 at Balatonújlak-Erdő-dűlő (from: Langó–Siklósi 2013, 141. Fig. 5)



Fig. 12: Silver coins from the cemetery at Balatonújlak-Erdő-dűlő (from: Langó–Siklósi 2013, 148. Fig. 13)

lar types of objects in Trans-Danubia from only one other site (Győr-Malomszéki-dűlő).²⁵

Most recently a rich cemetery with 17 graves was discovered by Zsuzsanna Siklósi during a preventive excavation before the construction of the M7 expressway in Balatonújlak. Partial and symbolic equestrian burials, hair disks (Fig. 11), gilt silver fittings, rosettes, silver coins (Fig. 12) and a saddle adorned with silver fittings (Fig. 13) are amongst the finds.²⁶

Finds have also been discovered in recent times through field walks, such as a Conquest Period pendant found in 2003 at *Kapoly-Hegyháti-dűlő* and most recently a metal fitting also from the Conquest Period was discovered near *Hetes* in 2013.

²⁵ Hegyi, Borbála: *Vörs-Majori-dűlő 10–11. századi temetője* (10th–11th Century Cemetery at Vörs-Majori-dűlő). Dissertation (Szeged, University of Szeged, Department of Humanities, 2015). Költő, László – Hegyi, Borbála: *Vörs-Majori-dűlő. Régészeti adatok Somogy megye 10–11. századi fegyveres sírjaihoz* (Vörs-Majori-dűlő. Archaeological Data on Somogy County's 10th–11th Century Graves with Weaponry). In: Balogh, Csilla – Petkes, Zsolt – Sudár, Balázs – Zsidai, Zsuzsanna (eds.): „...in nostra lingua Hringe nominant.” *Tanulmányok Szentpéteri József 60. születésnapja tiszteletére* (“...in nostra lingua Hringe nominant.” Essays in Honor of József Szentpéteri's 60th Birthday) (Budapest-Kecskemét: Budapest-Kecskemét: MTA Bölcsészettudományi Kutatóközpont-Kecskeméti Katona József Múzeum, 2015), 167–200.

²⁶ Langó, Péter – Siklósi, Zsuzsanna: 10. századi temető Balatonújlak-Erdő-dűlőn (10th Century Cemetery at Balatonújlak-Erdő-dűlő). In: Révész, László – Wolf, Mária (eds.): *A honfoglalás kor kutatásának legújabb eredményei. Tanulmányok Kovács László 70. születésnapjára* (The Most Recent Results of Research into the Conquest Period. Essays for László Kovács's 70th Birthday) (Szeged, 2013), 139–156.

From the above it is clear that Somogy County has a significant number of finds that can be dated to the Conquest Period and the time of the founding of the Hungarian state. The present essay has only briefly dealt with data from cemeteries, grave goods and a few treasure hoards, while in addition to these there are traces of settlements, early churches and relics of industrial archaeology (iron smelting furnaces) that can be dated to this period. We currently have information from forty sites, but it is necessary to determine through research the authenticity of more than a dozen other sites, stray finds and other information. Until this is accomplished and until we publish the full materials in our upcoming work, we would like to contribute to the 10th-11th century archaeology of the county (and of the entire Southern Trans-Danubian region) with a few more reports, through which we can make it possible to more precisely describe the historical events of that time. In the interest of all this – according to our plans and hopes – we would like to perform further archaeological (processing and excavation), historical, geographical and scientific examinations.

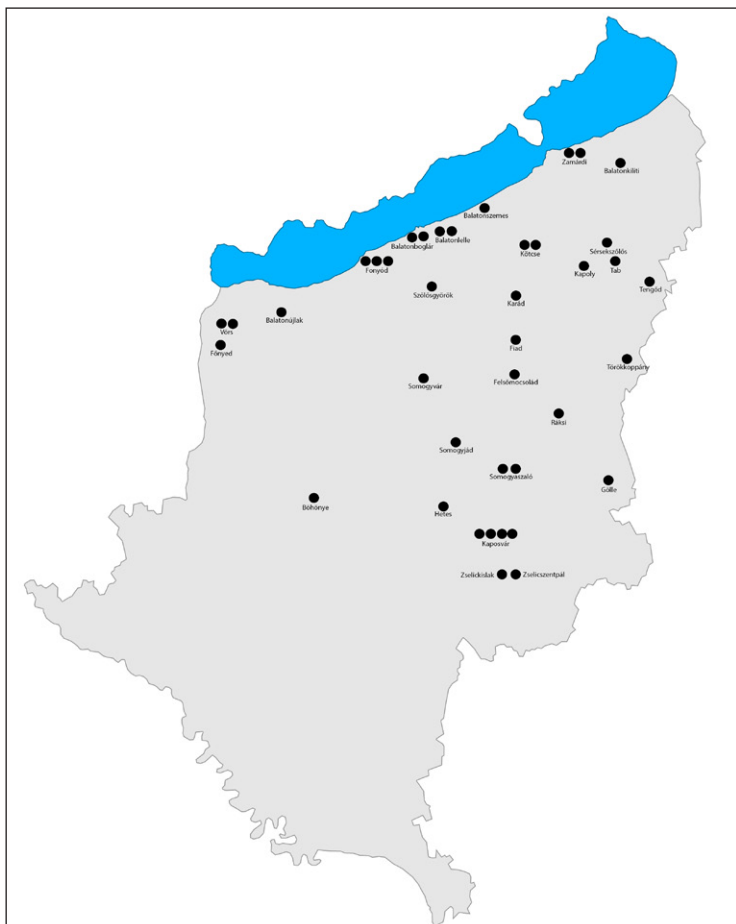


Fig. 14: 10th-11th century archaeological sites appearing in the text (prepared by: Máté Varga)

HAMPEL-TYPE A AND B GROUPS

In 1907, József Hampel (1849–1913) created categories for the evaluation of Conquest Period relics, which he adapted from an earlier three-part division, while placing it on a different basis. While previously the ability to date the graves was the basis, the ethnic aspect gained ground in the second type of division. According to this just the rich burials classically attributed to the conquering Hungarians belonged to group A, thus the presence of equestrian burials, belts with fittings, sabers, satchels, etc. were relevant in the graves. The members of the B group could be dated to a similar time, but could be categorized by items of apparel and jewelry had less adornment and were more poorly made. These came from the so-called rowed cemeteries, which in this case Hampel – together with other researchers of the time, or more precisely due to their influence – attributed to the population of the Slavic ethnic group. This type of division remained for the most part until the middle of the 20th century, however from the beginning of the sixties it became discredited (see: the “Bjelo Brdo” culture).

THE BJELO BRDO CULTURE

This designation also encompasses an archaeological concept that has now been discredited. The Bjelo Brdo archaeological site (found in present-day Croatia) was excavated at the beginning of the 20th century, and for a long time they identified it as the legacy of a Slavic population living in the 10th century. Later, the detailed and currently prevailing research of Béla Szőke (1913–1961) showed that in reality the common, poorer class of the Hungarian people could be recognized in the finds from Bjelo Brdo and other cemeteries with similar items. At the same time it is important to note that in present-day research the identification of archaeological objects with an ethnic group or a social class is a quite problematic, less acceptable method of interpretation.

RECOMMENDED LITERATURE

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Kora Árpád-kori temetőrészlet egy kaposvári lakóparkban. Előzetes jelentés az Ezüsthárs lakópark közműberuházások által érintett területének régészeti feltárásáról. (Early Árpád Period Cemetery Section in a Kaposvár Gated Community. Preliminary Report on the Archaeological Excavations on the Area Affected by the Installation of Public Utilities at the Ezüsthárs Gated Community). *Somogyi Múzeumok Közleményei* 18 (2008), 171–224.

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